

# Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting – March 3, 2026

Town of Plainfield, Vermont

A [video recording](#) of this meeting is available on the Town's YouTube channel and on the Town of Plainfield website.

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## **Moderator Donny Osman called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.**

The Moderator welcomed those present and noted the longstanding Plainfield tradition of beginning Town Meeting with a poem. In the absence of former moderator Charlie Barasch, who had long carried that tradition, the Moderator read the poem *Casey at the Bat*.

The Moderator then reviewed procedures for conducting Town Meeting. He explained that the meeting would generally follow Robert's Rules of Order, except where Vermont law governing Town Meetings provides otherwise. The Moderator encouraged residents to participate respectfully and noted that voters would be recognized before speaking.

The Moderator also reminded those present that **Articles I, II, and III** were being decided by Australian ballot at the polls and would not be voted on from the floor.

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## **Article IV: To hear reports of Town Officers and act on the same.**

Town officers' reports contained in the Town Report were presented. Residents raised general questions regarding several reports and the work of Town departments during the past year.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Town Officers' reports as printed in the Town Report.

The motion carried by voice vote.

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## **Article V: Shall the Town vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$6,833.06 for the support of Rural Community Transportation Inc. to provide services to residents of the Town of Plainfield?**

Speakers raised questions about the services provided by Rural Community Transportation and the value of maintaining transportation options for residents.

The article passed by voice vote.

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**Article VI: Shall the Town of Plainfield appropriate the sum of \$1,499 as its share of the 2027 year cost of commuter bus service along Route 2 with service into Montpelier?**

Speakers raised questions about the commuter bus service and the partnership with neighboring towns and funding sources that support the service.

During discussion, it was noted that the article referenced an incorrect year (2024). An amendment was proposed to correct the year listed in the article. The amendment was adopted.

The article, as amended, passed by voice vote.

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**Article VII: Shall the Town voters authorize the expenditures for the following not-for-profit service agencies as recommended by the appointed Social Concerns Committee?**

Capstone Community Action	\$ 500.00
Central VT Adult Basic Education	\$ 400.00
Central Vermont Council on Aging	\$ 1,450.00
Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice	\$ 3,100.00
Circle	\$ 525.00
Elevate Youth Services	\$ 550.00
Family Center of Washington County	\$ 500.00
Good Beginnings	\$ 400.00
Good Samaritan Haven	\$ 1,250.00
Neighbors in Action	\$ 250.00
Onion River Food Shelf	\$ 1,000.00
Our House	\$ 100.00
People's Health & Wellness Center	\$ 1,000.00
Twin Valley Senior Center	\$ 4,650.00
Twinfield Together Mentoring Program	\$ 250.00
Vermont Center for Independent Living	\$ 175.00
Washington County Diversion	\$ 400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 16,500.00</b>

Speakers raised questions regarding the organizations receiving funding and the services they provide to residents of Plainfield.

The article passed by voice vote.

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**Article VIII: Shall the Town voters authorize an appropriation of \$56,000 to the Cutler Memorial Library?**

No comments or questions were raised.

The article passed by voice vote.

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**Article IX: Shall the Town approve \$311,874.00 for the operation of the Water Department for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 to be paid for by the rate payers of the system?**

Speakers raised questions about water system operations and ongoing costs associated with maintaining the system.

An amendment was proposed to replace the word “ratepayers” with “users.” After discussion, the amendment did not pass.

The article passed by voice vote.

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**Article X: Shall the Town approve \$392,055.00 for the operation of the Wastewater Department for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 to be paid for by the rate payers of the system?**

Speakers raised questions about wastewater system operations and infrastructure maintenance.

The article passed by voice vote.

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**Shall the Town approve total fund expenditures of \$1,842,047.44 to pay for Administrative Operations, Fire and Rescue Department, and Highway Department of the Town of Plainfield for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, of which \$1,326,787.44 shall be raised by taxes and \$515,260 by non-tax revenue**

Speakers raised questions regarding the overall municipal budget and the relationship between the various departmental budgets included in the total expenditures.

A motion was made to postpone the vote on the article. The motion was discussed but was not adopted.

The article passed by voice vote.

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**Article XII: Shall the Town of Plainfield authorize the Select Board to apply any surplus from the current fiscal year to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year?**

Speakers raised questions regarding the use of surplus funds and how applying surplus could affect the next year's tax rate.

The article passed by voice vote.

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**Article XIII: Shall the Town vote to accept the provisions of public statutes relating to the collection of taxes by the Town Treasurer and vote to collect municipal taxes thirty days from mailing and not prior to August 19, 2026 and collect school taxes on November 18, 2026 and February 10, 2027?**

Speakers raised questions regarding the proposed tax collection schedule.

The article passed by voice vote.

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**Article XIV: To transact any other non-binding business that may properly come before the meeting.**

Michael Billingsley addressed the meeting and shared remarks regarding his service as Emergency Management Director. He noted that he would be stepping down from the role and described ongoing efforts to strengthen the town's public safety coordination and emergency management capacity.

Karen Hatcher expressed appreciation for the service of Selectboard member Karl Bissex. She thanked him for his leadership and dedication to the town during a challenging period and noted the respect and gratitude many in the community feel for his work.

Alicia Weiss, chair of the Plainfield Accessibility Advisory Group, shared an update regarding accessibility initiatives in the community. She spoke in particular about ongoing work to improve accessibility in civic participation, including voting access and accessibility at Town Meeting.

### **Resolution: Right to Grow Food**

Rae Carter introduced a non-binding resolution urging the Vermont Legislature to adopt a “Right to Grow Food” policy and to restore the regulation of farming and farm businesses to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. The resolution encouraged the Legislature to codify the right to grow food, including the raising of livestock and the production and sale of agricultural products.

After discussion, the resolution passed by voice vote.

### **Resolution: Abolish ICE**

A second non-binding resolution was introduced by Debra Stoleroff stating that the Town of Plainfield urges the abolition of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). During discussion, the wording of the resolution was amended to refer to the safety of “residents” rather than “citizens.”

The amended resolution passed by voice vote.

Additional announcements and comments were shared by residents. No further action was taken under this article.

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### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned after approximately two and one-half hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Hammack, Town Clerk  
Town of Plainfield, Vermont